

Message Text

SECRET

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60

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 EUR-08 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03

SAB-01 /049 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2352

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USUN 4556

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, IS, XF

SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL WILL REPORTEDLY CRITICIZE
US MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

1. SENIOR LEBANESE DELEGATE INFORMS US THAT MAIN ORDER
OF BUSINESS AT ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING

SCHEDULED HERE FOR LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 26 IS COMPLETION
OF STATEMENT CRITICIZING US FOR ARMS PLEDGES TO ISRAEL.
OUR SOURCE SAYS ONLY OPEN QUESTION IS TONE OF STATEMENT,
I.E., WHETHER TO "CONDEMN, DEPLORE OR REGRET" US ASSURANCES.
HE IS CERTAIN DECISION TO ISSUE STATEMENT CANNOT BE
REVERSED NOR GENERALIZED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OMIT DIRECT
CRITICISM OF US.

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2. WE TOLD OUR SOURCE (WHO EXPECTED TO REPRESENT LEBANON AT THE MEETING) THAT THE KIND OF DENUNCIATION THE ARABS EVIDENTLY INTENDED WOULD IN OUR VIEW BE COMPLETELY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS A THREAT, AND WHAT SYMPATHY EXISTED FOR ITS OBJECTIVES WOULD BE PORTRAYED AS CAPITULATION. MOREOVER, THE ASSURANCES TO WHICH THE ARABS WERE OBJECTING WERE PROMISES TO STUDY EXISTING REQUESTS, AND HAD BEEN BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION.

3. OUR SOURCE PROMISED TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH EGYPTIANS WITH VIEW TO MODERATING STATEMENT TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE ASKED THAT US OFFICIALS NOT GET IN TOUCH WITH ARAB DELEGATIONS ON THE MATTER.

4. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD RIAD WOULD, OUR SOURCE BELIEVED, BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. MOST

LIKELY TIME OF ISSUANCE WOULD BE LATE EVENING SEPTEMBER 26 OR MORNING SEPTEMBER 27.
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